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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
| 10/589,844 | 05/04/2007 | Thomas Schmidt | 12834-00021-US | 2786 |
| 23416 | 7590 | 08/18/2011 | EXAMINER | |
| CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ, LLP | | | ARCIERO, ADAM A | |
| P O BOX 2207 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| WILMINGTON, DE 19899 | | | 1727 | |
| MAIL DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

10/589,844

Applicant(s)

SCHMIDT ET AL.

Examiner

ADAM A. ARCIERO

Art Unit

1727

-The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -

THE REPLY FILED 09 August 2011 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
 (a) They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 (b) They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
 (c) They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 (d) They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).

5. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.

6. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

7. For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) will not be entered, or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____

Claim(s) objected to: _____

Claim(s) rejected: 1-34

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).

9. The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing a good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).

10. The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
 See Continuation Sheet.

12. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____

13. Other: _____

/Barbara L. Gilliam/
 Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1727

/ADAM A. ARCIERO/
 Examiner, Art Unit 1727

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant's arguments filed August 09, 2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's principle arguments are:

- a) Buchanan relates to an acid electrolyte and not a polymer electrolyte as claimed (claim 1).
- b) Examiner is considering the two "different" electrolytes of Bjerrum and Buchanan as being functionally equivalent (claim 1).
- c) Buchanan only mentions the use of gold to improve the catalyst, not nickel (claim 1).
- d) There is no teaching by Bjerrum for which steps have to be taken to improve the performance of a catalyst for a polyazole/phosphoric acid PEM (claim 1).

In response to Applicant's arguments, please consider the following comments:

- a) Polymer electrolytes can comprise acids. Furthermore, claim 1 uses open-ended language "comprising" which does not exclude acids. Even furthermore, Buchanan teaches that the catalysts can be used in PEM fuel cells (col. 2, lines 48-56).
- b) Examiner did not make such a statement. Buchanan teaches that catalysts used fuel cells such as Ni and Ti in combination with Pt as being functionally equivalent.
- c) Buchanan clearly mentions the use of nickel with platinum as a catalyst for a PEM fuel cell, as well as with the addition of gold to improve the catalyst. Furthermore, claim 1 can comprise gold with the platinum and nickel catalysts.
- d) In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Buchanan was used as a teaching for improving the performance of the catalysts as a secondary reference.